GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2794
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
COMMERCE SECTOR IN NER
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn any plan to boost the commerce sector in the North East Region with focus on horticulture, agriculture, handloom and handicraft industries;

(b) if so, the details and broad features thereof, indicating the areas to be covered thereby, State-wise;

(c) the Central aid/participation proposed to be provided thereunder; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to implement the same?

Answer

MINISTER, MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R.KYNDIAH)

(a)to(d): As per the information received from the Department of Commerce, financial assistance is provided to all the States, including NE States, under the Scheme of Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE). Further, following the announcement made by the Prime Minister in Shillong on January 21-22, 2000, an Export Development Fund (EDF), has been setup with the objective of using the resources for the development of exports from the Region. So far 42 projects have been sanctioned under EDF.

As informed by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the NE States, sanctioned in 2001-02, inter-alia includes value addition, processing and marketing of horticulture produce. An amount of Rs.565 crore was allocated for the NE States under the Scheme during Xth Plan against which Rs.445.60 crore were released till 2005-06. A number of markets have been established under Mini Mission III of this Scheme.
The State-wise details are as under:

State	Whole Sale Market	Rural Primary Market	Apni Mandies	Grading Lab.	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
Assam	2	25	-	7	2.17
Arunachal Pradesh	6	24	-	2	2.91
Mizoram	10	87	-	2	8.79
Nagaland	8	82	43	-	8.16
Sikkim	1	14	-	3	0.85
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	2	11	-	2	0.95
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-
Total	29	243	43	16	23.83

As regard handloom and handcraft sectors, the Ministry of Textiles has informed that a number of Schemes are being implemented for the development of these sectors in the NE States. The funds released for NER under various Schemes during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Year	Amount Released Handlooms	Handicrafts
1.	2003-04	22.58	7.13
2.	2004-05	27.08	14.74
3.	2005-06	31.34	18.03